

GUNN HIGH SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

Minutes - Approved January 22, 2018 November 6, 2017 -- 7:00 PM

Attending:

Principal: Kathie Laurence
Staff Reps: Adriana Aro, Darlene Feldstein, Kristina Granlund, Yukie Hikida,
Joshua Little
Student Reps: Arunim Agarwal, Kathy Liu, Hanna Suh
Parent Reps: Jane Dick, Ani Gnanalingam, Liz Milner, Jen Schultz, Carolina Moraes Liu (alternate)
Visitors: Pauline Her, Michael Panitchpakdi

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by co-chair Ani Gnanalingam.

OPEN FORUM: There were no visitors to address the Site Council during Open Forum.

OLD BUSINESS: The minutes of October 9 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

School Improvement Update presented by Kathie Laurence

1. Kathie gave an update on the Site Council budget: We have \$23,120 allocation for 2017-18, \$9,781 carryover from last year, and a bill for \$1976 has been paid for a teacher's grant. Total current balance is \$30,975.

2. Kathie introduced PAUSD data for 2013-14 and 2015-16 from the **California Healthy Kids Survey** - Summary of School Indicators of Climate and Well Being, a state-mandated survey given to 7th, 9th and 11th grade students every two years. Site Council members made predictions about Gunn's progress and then looked at the actual 2015-16 survey data. We'll be using this data to generate a report for our mid-cycle WASC visit in March. Overall there has been improvement in most areas. Some key findings:

- School connectedness is stable for 9th graders (except their "meaningful participation" has dropped), has slightly improved for 11th graders.
- Drug use and drinking has dropped
- Sadness/hopelessness has increased for 9th and 11th graders

On **Thurs Dec 7, 4-6:30pm in the Library**, several groups - PTSA, Site Council, SEC, Instructional Council, and College Pathways - will meet together to discuss vision and goals for next three years, in preparation for WASC.

3. Kathie also introduced the **Challenge Success Survey Results** from Gunn High School which was administered in 2015 and again in spring 2017. Some key findings:

- Amount of time spent daily on school-assigned homework for 9th, 10th, and 11th graders has gone **down** (but up slightly for 12th graders), while amount of time spent daily on on NON-school-assigned homework (language, test prep, religious, etc. classes outside school) for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders has gone **up**.
- Almost no change in perceptions of how valuable homework is.
- The primary reason kids participate in extracurricular activities: 73% students said enjoyment, 11% students said resume building (which has increased from 9%)
- Kids are reporting slightly more free time than they have in the past. There haven't been substantial changes in how students spend their free time, other than on texting/chatting which has gone up 10% for 10th graders and 15% for 11th graders.
- Teacher care and extracurriculars have not changed.
- Students are getting slightly more sleep than before but still not enough. 9th-10th graders are getting less than 8 hrs per night. 11th-12th graders are getting less than 7 hrs/night. Kathie is challenging all students to get 9 hours/night (the recommended amount) for the two weeks before finals.

4. Kathie introduced the summary of a report "[Turning the Tide](#)" by the Making Caring Common Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, which is supported by Deans of Admissions, administrators, counselors, and others at leading US colleges. They are trying to shift the college admissions process from an emphasis on

personal achievement above all else, to an emphasis on caring for others and the common good. They've come up with several recommendations currently being implemented at colleges across the country. Site Council discussed the recommendations as they relate to Gunn. Several Site Council members made suggestions such as redefining success at Gunn, giving more value to community service in Living Skills class and making a stronger connection between service and academics (like PALY's social justice program), and taking into account equity issues.

Constituency Representatives' Reports:

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Kathie Laurence

Homecoming, the play *Servant of Two Masters*, and the choir concert were fantastic. Turkey feast is coming up. It will be set up in the parking lot in front of the main office since we don't have the Quad. Plan B in case of rain is the gym. 10th-12th grade voluntary SEL cohort went well. The 12-14 students who attended said they liked it. SELF is getting mixed reviews from 9th graders. Everyone seems ready for a break.

PTSA REPORT by Jane Dick

PTSA awarded 10 teacher grants for fall. Culture Connections club is working to translate the Gunn Connection into Mandarin, Korean, and Spanish. YCS Gunn Service Day will be March 1st. YCS is partnering with SELF TOSA's to incorporate service learning. PTSA is co-hosting Dr. Devorah Heitner who will speak about raising thoughtful kids in a digital age. PTA Council has guidelines for hosting environmentally-friendly events. Superintendent's Task Force (RISE) is being formed to coordinate our community's caring response to matters of sexual harassment and violence. Keri Wagner will represent Gunn on the task force. The BBQ before the Night Rally went really well. Turkey Feast is coming up Nov 16.

PARENT REPORT by Liz Milner

We didn't receive a lot of input from parents this month. Liz commented that essay writing for college applications is overwhelming many seniors. Early action deadline was this week. Kathie's recommendations for future consideration: (1) have students write essays during English classes (this is currently not done consistently), and (2) have a break after the first quarter ends in October, rather than a whole week at Thanksgiving. On PSAT days in the future, perhaps seniors can bring in drafts of their essays to get feedback on.

SEC/STUDENT REPORT by Kathy Liu

Unity Day went well. Human relations is working on buddy system for transfer students. An SEC survey was sent out that asked students to rank consent at the dance on a scale from 1-5. 79% of students felt their consent was being respected at the dance (and less than 4% responded 1,2, or 3). SEC also had students give their feedback on each of the homecoming games/events and most were very popular. Even though the senior float flew off the truck, the seniors did a great job of putting it back together. Next year we'll be sure to tie down the floats, and maybe paint and get more artists involved.

STAFF REPORT by Adriana Aro on behalf of Deanna Messinger

Congratulations to Cristina Cismas Florea and Toni Smith and students in the BEAM program, which has gone international. The mayor of Heidelberg, Germany (one of BEAM's partner cities) came to visit and there were representatives from several countries on the google hangout. Theater production and choir concert were fantastic. Three Gunn students participated in Japanese speech contest in San Francisco. A suggestion was made to post scroll paintings with protective coverings around campus. CIEE (summer language program) deadline is December 1st. Raffle and free airfare will be awarded. \$40,000 in scholarship money is available for Gunn students. Do parents still want to be more involved in classes? There has been a lot of turnover among our school counselors; Kathie agreed we need to do our best to support and retain them.

SITE COUNCIL BUSINESS

Co-chairs will meet on Monday Nov 27 at 12:45pm in Kathie's office to set the December agenda.

Next Site Council meeting is on Thurs December 7 from 4:00-6:30 pm in the library. Snacks provided by Kristina and Deanna.

Kathy Liu moved to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm